

What is claimed is:

1. A system for communicating an alarm condition between a secure compartmented information facility (SCIF) and a location outside the SCIF, the system comprising:
 - an optical transmitter located in the outside location;
 - an optical receiver located in the SCIF; and an fiber optic link connecting the optical transmitter and optical receiver, wherein:
 - the optical transmitter is adapted to send a continuous tone to the optical receiver;
 - and
 - the optical receiver is adapted to detect the presence of the optical tone and to generate a trouble signal in the event the tone signal is not received.
2. The system for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 1, wherein the trouble signal is sent to the outside location.
3. The system for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 1, the system further comprising:
 - an inside safety-related system (SRS) located in the SCIF, wherein the inside SRS is adapted to generate an inside alarm condition signal in response to an event occurring in the SCIF;
 - an inside alarm signal generator located in the SCIF adapted to convert the inside alarm condition signal to an inside alarm optical signal; and
 - an outside alarm signal monitor located in the location outside the SCIF adapted to detect the presence of the inside alarm optical signal and to initiate a response in the event an inside alarm optical signal is present.
4. The system for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 3, wherein the inside SRS is selected from the group consisting of a fire detection system, a smoke detection system, an intrusion detection

system, a biohazard release detection system, a fire suppressant release system, and a chemical release detection system.

5. The system for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 3 further comprising:

an outside SRS, wherein the outside SRS is adapted to generate an outside alarm condition signal in response to an event occurring in the location outside the SCIF; and

an outside alarm signal generator located outside the SCIF adapted to convert the outside alarm condition signal to an outside alarm optical signal; and

an inside alarm signal monitor located inside the SCIF adapted to detect the presence of the outside alarm optical signal and to initiate a response in the event an outside alarm optical signal is present.

6. The system for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 5, wherein the outside SRS is selected from the group consisting of a fire detection system, a smoke detection system, an intrusion detection system, a biohazard release detection system, a fire suppressant release system, and a chemical release detection system.

7. The system for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 5 wherein the outside alarm condition signal is an audio signal delivered to an outside speaker, and wherein the outside alarm signal monitor response in the event that an outside alarm optical signal is present comprises converting the outside alarm optical signal to an audio signal and sending the audio signal to the SCIF speaker.

8. A method for communicating an alarm condition between a secure compartmented information facility (SCIF) and a location outside the SCIF, the method comprising:

sending a tone signal from an optical transmitter located in the outside location connected via a fiber optic link to an optical receiver located in the SCIF; and
monitoring the reception of the tone signal by the optical receiver;

making a determination that the optical receiver is not receiving the tone signal;
and

in the event the optical receiver is not receiving the tone signal, generating a trouble signal.

9. The method for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 8, the method further comprising:

generating an inside alarm condition signal in response to an event occurring in the SCIF;

converting the inside alarm condition signal to an inside alarm optical signal;

determining the presence of the inside alarm optical signal at the location outside the SCIF; and

initiating a response in the event that an inside alarm optical signal is present.

10. The method for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 9 further comprising:

generating an outside alarm condition signal in response to an event occurring in the location outside the SCIF;

converting the outside alarm signal to an outside alarm optical signal;

determining the presence of the outside alarm optical signal within the SCIF; and

initiating a response in the event that an outside alarm optical signal is present.

11. The method for communicating an alarm condition between a SCIF and a location outside the SCIF as in claim 10, wherein the outside alarm condition signal is an audio signal delivered to an outside speaker, and wherein initiating a response in the event that an outside alarm optical signal is present comprises converting the outside alarm optical signal to an audio signal and sending the audio signal to SCIF speaker.